

## CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method for providing an authentication of a user of a computer in a network, the method comprising the steps of:

- (a) capturing biometric information of a user;
- (b) encrypting information using server public key and signing the biometric information with a client private key;
- (c) sending the encrypted and signed data to a secure server in the network;
- (d) accepting and verifying credentials associated with the signed and encrypted data from the server utilizing the public key from the central server; and
- (e) installing the credentials into the computer if the credentials are verified.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein the biometric information comprises fingerprint information.

1 3. The method of claim 1 wherein the biometric information comprises retinal information.

1 4. The method of claim 1 wherein the biometric information comprises voice information.

1 5. The method of claim 1 wherein the biometric information comprises

2 handwriting information.

1 6. The method of claim 1 wherein the secure server comprises an authentication  
2 credential server.

1 7. A system for providing an authentication of a user of a computer system in a  
2 network; the system comprising:

3 a biometric capture device within the computer system for receiving the biometric  
4 information of the user and sending the biometric information to the central server, wherein  
5 credential; and  
6 secure server for authenticating the biometric and credential information of a user from  
7 the computer.

1 8. The system of claim 7 wherein the biometric information is encrypted utilizing  
2 a public key/private key pair.

1 9. The system of claim 7 wherein the biometric information comprises fingerprint  
2 information.

1 10. The system of claim 7 wherein the biometric information comprises retinal  
2 information.

1 11. The system of claim 7 wherein the biometric information comprises voice

2 information.

1 12. The system of claim 7 wherein the biometric information comprises  
2 handwriting information.

1           13.    The system of claim 7 wherein the secure server comprises an authentication  
2            credential server.